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Attorneys for Plaintiff

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

<b>GEORGE GOODRITZ</b>	:	No.
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
<b>618 MARKET L.P.</b>	:	
	:	
	:	
	:	
and	:	
<b>LAZ PARKING MID-ATLANTIC, LLC</b>	:	<b>COMPLAINT</b>
	:	
Defendants	:	

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

George Goodritz (the “Plaintiff”), by and through his counsel, brings this lawsuit against 618 Market L.P., and LAZ Parking Mid-Atlantic, LLC seeking all available relief under the Americans with Disabilities Act for the failure to comply with the Act’s accessibility requirements. Plaintiff is seeking injunctive relief requiring the Defendants to remove the accessibility barriers which exist at their parking facility. The allegations contained herein are based on personal experience of the Plaintiff.

### **I. JURISDICTION**

1. This action is brought pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*
2. This civil controversy arises under the laws of the United States, and jurisdiction in conferred upon this District Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331.

### **II. VENUE**

3. All actions complained of herein took place within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
4. Venue is proper in this judicial District as provided by 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

### **III. PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff is a 69 year-old adult male who currently resides in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
6. Plaintiff is a disabled individual.
7. The Philadelphia Board of Revision of Taxes lists 618 Market, L.P. (“Defendant Market”) as the owner of 618 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106, having a tax account number of 883405500.
8. According to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Defendant Market is a foreign limited partnership with an entity identification number of 4344694.
9. LAZ Parking Mid-Atlantic, LLC (“Defendant LAZ”) is a foreign for-profit limited liability company registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State with entity identification number 3766497.
10. Defendant LAZ has a registered business address of 1818 Market Street, Suite 3140, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

11. Defendant Market and Defendant LAZ are collectively referred to herein as the “Defendants.”

#### **IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

##### **The Parking Facility**

12. Defendant Market owns a public parking garage located at 618 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106 (the “Parking Facility”).

13. Upon information and belief, Defendant LAZ manages the Parking Facility for Defendant Market.

14. The Parking Facility offers parking to the general public.

15. The Parking Facility is a “self-park” garage, where customers enter the garage and park their own vehicle.

16. The Parking Facility has five (5) levels.

17. The entrance to the Parking Facility is at 11 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

18. The Parking Facility is open 24 hours a day.<sup>1</sup>

19. Upon information and belief, the Parking Facility has approximately 330 parking spaces.

20. The Parking Facility is served by an elevator and by two (2) stairwells for the various parking levels.

21. On levels 1 through 3, there is a van-accessible handicap parking space adjacent to each elevator access location.

22. One side of each van-accessible handicap parking space on levels 1 through 3 is partially blocked by a wall. **(See Exhibit A)**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lazparking.com/local/philadelphia-pa/618-market-street-garage>

23. On levels 1 through 3, there is a van-accessible handicap parking space adjacent to each elevator access location.
24. None of the handicap accessible parking spaces on levels 1 through 3 have handicap-accessible signs designating the parking space as being handicap-accessible.
25. On levels 1 through 3, there is one (1) car-accessible handicap parking space adjacent to each elevator access location.
26. On the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, the Parking Facility has parking attendants who park vehicles.
27. There is a booth that the parking attendants utilize.
28. The parking attendants' booth is located in the middle of a handicap-accessible access aisle which serves two adjacent handicap parking spaces. **(See Exhibit B)**
29. There are no handicap-accessible parking spaces on the top level of the Parking Facility.
30. When the Plaintiff patronized the Parking Facility on or about June 3, 2017, there were cars parked in the access aisle for the handicap parking spaces. **(See Exhibit C)**
31. The stairwells do not have a hand railings which extend twelve (12) inches over the landing. **(See Exhibit D)**
32. To access the elevator on each parking level, a customer must step up on a curb. **(See Exhibit E)**
33. To access the stairs from on each parking level, a customer must step up on a curb.
34. None of the curbs have cut outs or ramps.

The Plaintiff

35. The Plaintiff is a disabled individual within the meaning of the ADA.
36. The Plaintiff has difficulty walking.

- 37. The Plaintiff possesses a handicap parking placard issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 38. The Plaintiff's handicap parking placard permits him to park his vehicle in spaces designated as being handicap-accessible.
- 39. The Plaintiff travels to Philadelphia frequently, and is often unable to find parking on the streets.
- 40. Plaintiff parks in a parking garage or parking lot when on-street parking is not available.
- 41. The Plaintiff has previously patronized the Parking Facility.

### **THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

- 42. Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") in 1990 with the purpose of providing "[a] clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities" and "[c]lear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities." 42 U.S.C. § 12101(b).
- 43. The ADA provides a private right of action for injunctive relief to "any person who is being subject to discrimination on the basis of disability." 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(1).
- 44. Under the ADA, a disability is defined as "(A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (B) a record of such an impairment; or (C) being regarded as having such an impairment." 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1).
- 45. Title III of the ADA provides that "[n]o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities,

privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182.

46. “It shall be discriminatory to afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(ii).

47. A “public accommodation” are private entities whose operations affect commerce. See 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7).

48. In relevant part, Title III requires that the facilities of a public accommodation be “readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, except where an entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable.” 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1).

49. “Readily achievable” means easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense. 28 C.F.R. § 36.104.

50. Under Title III, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities that are newly constructed for occupancy beginning after January 26, 1992, must be “readily accessible to and usable by” individuals with disabilities. 28 C.F.R. § 36.401(a) (1).

51. Existing facilities whose construction predates January 26, 1992, must meet the lesser “barrier removal standard,” which requires the removal of barriers wherever it is “easily accomplishable and able to be done without undue burden or expense.” 28 C.F.R. § 36.304(a).

52. “Facility” means all or any portion of buildings, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the building, property, structure, or equipment is located. 28 C.F.R. § 35.104.
53. Discrimination, for purposes of a public accommodation, includes “[a] failure to design and construct facilities for first occupancy later than 30 months after July 26, 1990, that are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities” except where an entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements set forth by the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12183.
54. Under the ADA, businesses or privately owned facilities that provide goods or services to the public have a continuing obligation to remove accessibility barriers in existing parking lots when it is readily achievable to do so.
55. The restriping/repainting of the parking space borders is relatively inexpensive, and should be readily achievable and easily accomplishable.

*Accessible Parking under the ADA*

56. The 1991 implementing rules and the 2010 revisions to the ADA set forth the following requirements for handicap-accessible parking spaces:<sup>2</sup>

Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided in Parking Facility	Minimum Number of Required Accessible Parking Spaces
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAstandards.htm#pgfId-1010282>

201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 to 1000	2% of the total number of parking spaces
More than 1001	20, plus 1 for each 100 parking spaces over 1000

57. The ADA requires that handicap-accessible parking spaces be at least 96 (ninety-six) inches wide. See Appendix A to Part 36- Standards for Accessible Design, 28 C.F.R. Part 36.<sup>3</sup>

58. The width of a parking space is measured from the center of each parking line bordering the parking space.<sup>4</sup> (**See Exhibit F**)

59. For cars, the ADA requires that there be an access isle for the handicap-accessible parking space that is at least 60 (sixty) inches wide. (**See Exhibit F**)

60. For vans, the ADA requires that there be an access aisle for the handicap-accessible parking space that is at least 96 (ninety-six) inches wide.<sup>5</sup>

61. The 1991 ADA regulations require that one in every eight accessible spaces must be van accessible.<sup>6</sup>

62. The 2010 ADA regulations state that one in every six accessible spaces must be van accessible.<sup>7</sup>

63. The path a person with a disability takes to enter and move through a facility is called an "accessible route."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-parking#van>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII\\_2010/reg3\\_2010\\_appendix\\_b.htm](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/reg3_2010_appendix_b.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII\\_2010/title\\_ii\\_primer.html](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/title_ii_primer.html)



64. This route, which must be at least three feet wide, must remain accessible and not be blocked.<sup>9</sup>
65. Accessible routes must connect parking spaces to accessible entrances.<sup>10</sup>
66. ADA accessibility standards require that accessible parking spaces in parking garages be located on the shortest accessible route from adjacent parking to the accessible entrance of the building.<sup>11</sup>
67. ADA Guidance Standards provide that “[a] “path of travel” includes a continuous, unobstructed way of pedestrian passage by means of which the altered area may be approached, entered, and exited, and which connects the altered area with an exterior approach (including sidewalks, streets, and parking areas), an entrance to the facility, and other parts of the facility.”<sup>12</sup>
68. “An accessible path of travel may consist of walks and sidewalks, curb ramps and other interior or exterior pedestrian ramps; clear floor paths through lobbies, corridors, rooms, and other improved areas; parking access aisles; elevators and lifts; or a combination of these elements.”<sup>13</sup>

*Signage and the ADA*

69. The ADA standards require the use of the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) to identify parking spaces which are reserved for use by individuals with disabilities.<sup>14</sup>
- (See Exhibit G)**

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<sup>9</sup> Id.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.ada.gov/adata1.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm#curbramps>

<sup>13</sup> See Id.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/adaag#4.1>

70. Handicap-accessible parking spaces must be designed as “reserved” by a showing the ISA.

71. The ISA must be used to identify accessible passenger loading zones.

72. Directional signage must be used at inaccessible entrances to provide directions to the nearest accessible route.

73. Parking space identification signs shall be 60 (sixty) inches minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign.<sup>15</sup>

*Stairs and Handrails*

74. At the top of a stair flight, handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 (twelve) inches minimum beginning directly above the first riser nosing.<sup>16</sup> (See Exhibit F)

75. At the bottom of a stair flight, handrails shall extend at the slope of the stair flight for a horizontal distance at least equal to one tread depth beyond the last riser nosing.<sup>17</sup>

**COUNT I –**

**FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADA COMPLIANT HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE  
ACCESS LANES**

76. All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

77. The Parking Facility is a public accommodation as defined by ADA.

78. The Parking Facility is subject to Title III of the ADA.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

<sup>16</sup> See <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

<sup>17</sup> See Id.

79. The Plaintiff is a disabled individual within the meaning of the ADA.
80. The United States Supreme Court recognized the term “major life activities” includes walking. Bragdon v. Abbott, 524 U.S. 624, 638–39 (1998).
81. The major life activity that the constitutes the Plaintiff’s disability is his difficulty walking distances.
82. To exit his vehicle, Plaintiff must fully open his car door.
83. On level 4, the Parking Facility has a parking attendant booth located in the middle of an access aisle which serves two handicap accessible parking spaces.
84. The access aisle on level 4 of the Parking Facility is not accessible because of the parking attendant booth which sits in the middle of the access aisle.
85. The Parking Facility’s failure to provide an unencumbered access aisle has created an accessibility barrier for the Plaintiff, and other similarly situated disabled individuals.
86. Because the access aisle on level 4 is blocked, Plaintiff is unable to fully open his car door if he were to park in one of the spaces served by that access aisle.
87. Defendant Market is responsible for ensuring the Parking Facility’s compliance with the ADA.
88. Defendant LAZ is responsible for ensuring the Parking Facility’s compliance with the ADA.
89. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance with the ADA’s parking requirements removing the parking attendant booth from the access aisle on level 4 of the Parking Facility.
90. Compliance with the ADA’s parking requirements at the Parking Facility is readily achievable.

91. The Defendants' failure to comply with the ADA has denied the Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of the parking offered by the Parking Facility.

92. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by their failure to comply with the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendants as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT II-**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE SIGNAGE REQUIRMENTS UNDER  
THE ADA**

93. All of the preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

94. The Parking Facility does not have any pole-mounted or wall-mounted handicap-accessible parking signs at each handicap-accessible parking space which are 60 (sixty) inches above the ground.

95. The Parking Facility does not have any pole-mounted or wall-mounted van-accessible handicap-accessible parking signs which are 60 (sixty) inches above the ground.

96. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance by providing the proper signage for handicap-accessible parking spaces.

97. The Defendants' failure to comply with the ADA handicap-accessible parking requirements has denied the Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of parking offered by the Parking Facility.

98. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by its failure to comply with the ADA Standards.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendant as the Court deems just and proper.

### **COUNT III-**

#### **FAILURE TO MAINTAIN PROPER STAIR RAILS UNDER THE ADA**

99. All of the preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

100. In the Parking Facility's stairwells, the stairs leading to the next higher level do not have a hand rail which extends twelve (12) inches over the landing.

101. The Defendants' failure to install the proper handrail lengths at the top of the flight of stairs has created a safety issue and an accessibility issue.

102. The Defendants can remedy this non-compliance by installing hand rails of the proper length in the Parking Facility's stairwells

103. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by their failure to comply with the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendants as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT IV-**

**FAILURE TO PROVIDE CURB CUTS ADA**

104. All of the preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

105. There is a six (6) inch curb which must be cleared in order to access the elevator in the Parking Facility.

106. There is a six (6) inch curb which must be cleared in order to access the stairwells in the Parking Facility.

107. The Parking Facility's elevators are inaccessible by wheelchairs.

108. The Defendants can remedy this non-compliance by installing curb cut outs for each of the elevated platforms in front of the Parking Facility's elevator.

109. The Defendants can remedy this non-compliance by installing curb cut outs for each of the elevated platforms in front of the Parking Facility's stairwells.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendants as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: FJR5566

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*Attorney for Plaintiff, George Goodritz*

Dated: June 13, 2017

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

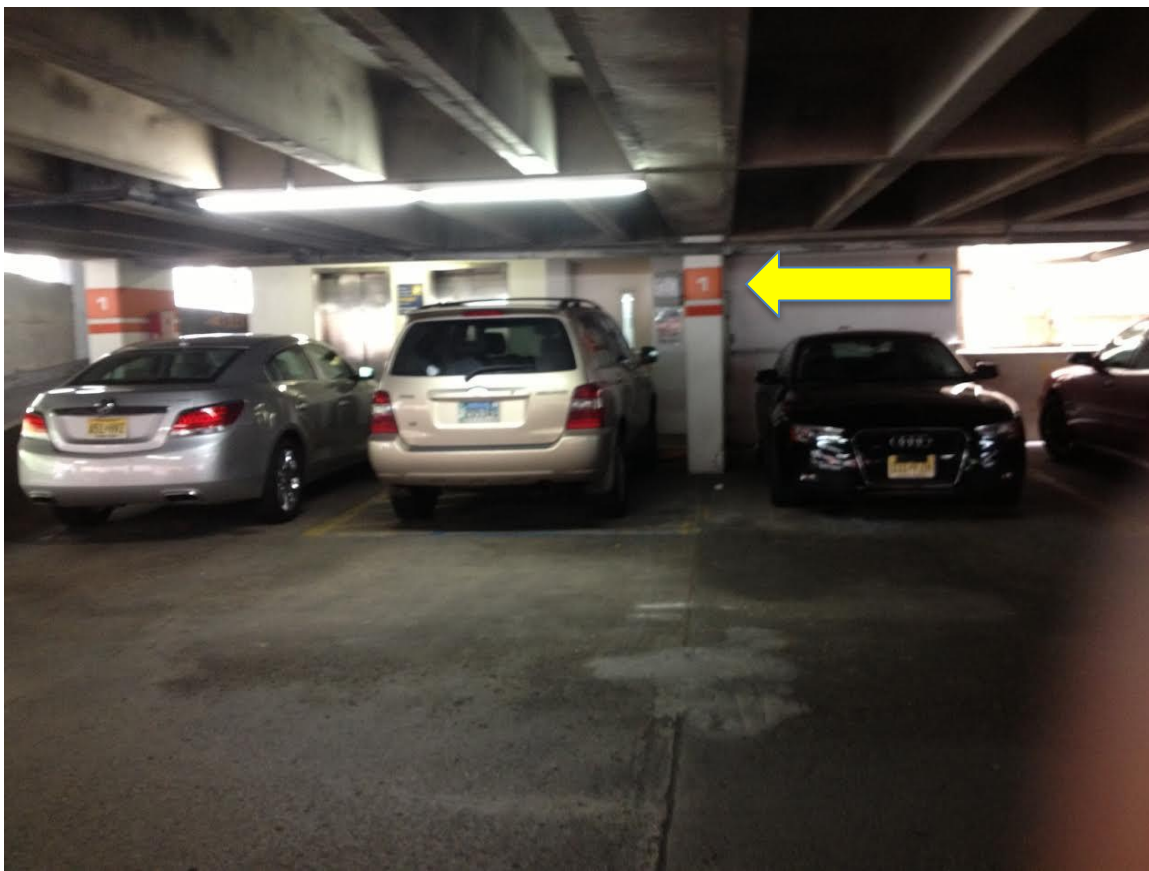
I, Franklin J. Rooks Jr., certify that I served Plaintiff's Complaint via the Court's ECF system.

By: FJR5566

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*Attorney for Plaintiff, George Goodritz*  
Dated: June 13, 2017



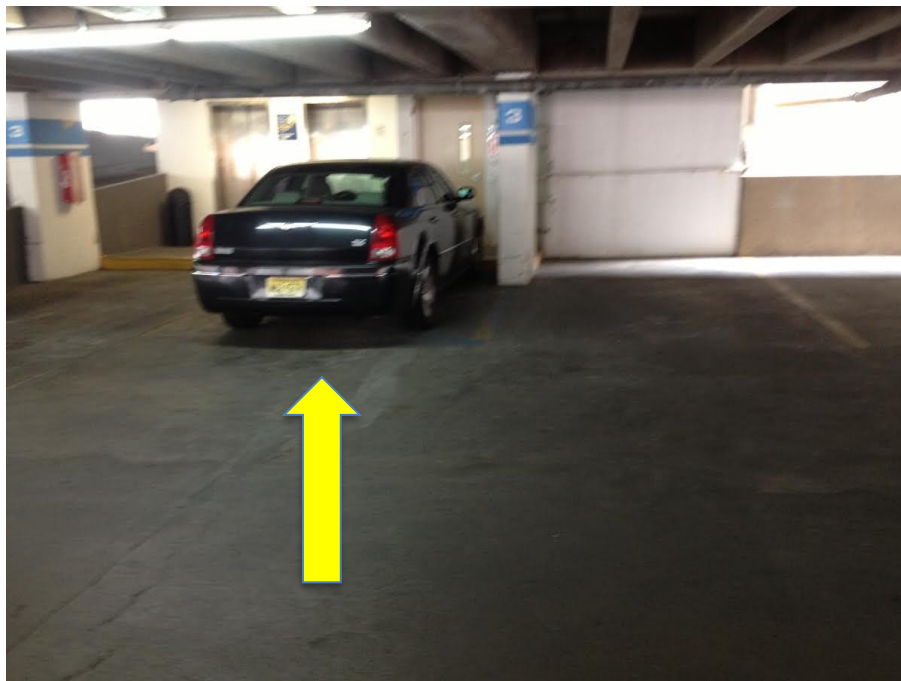
**EXHIBIT A**



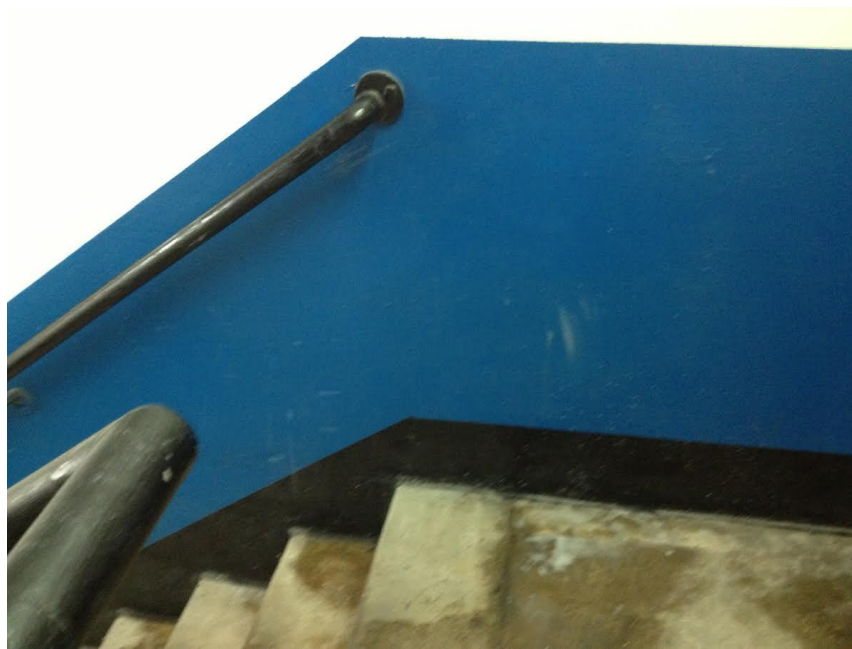
**EXHIBIT B**



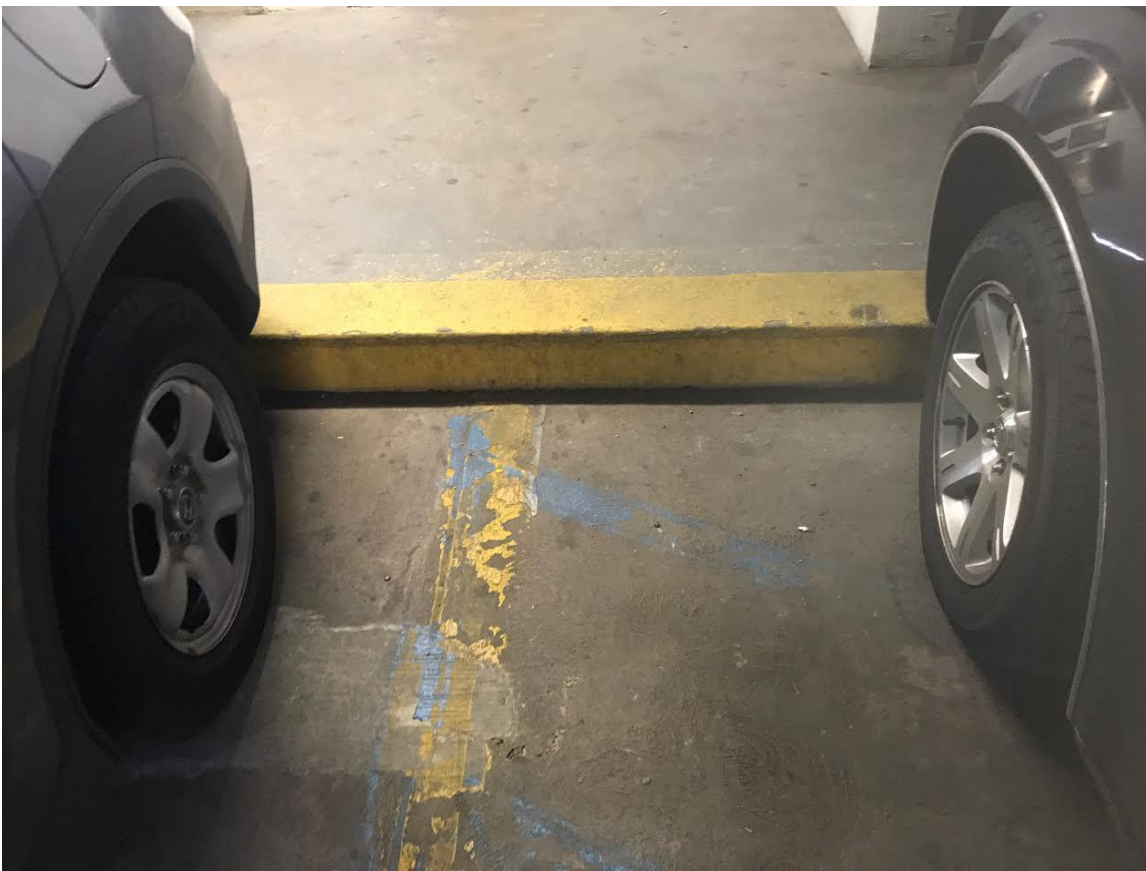
**EXHIBIT C**



**EXHIBIT D**



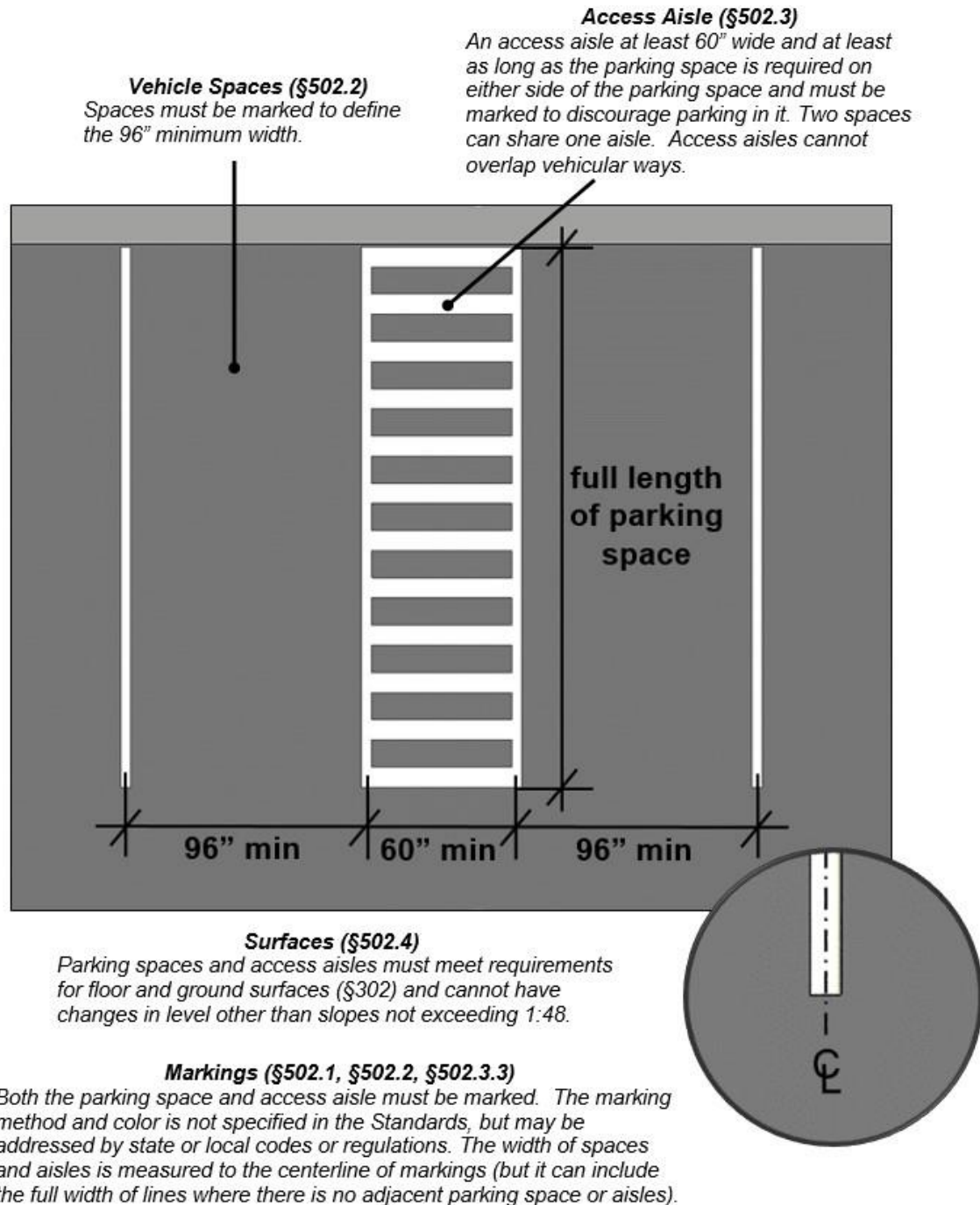
**EXHIBIT E**



(Source:<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-parking#spaces>)

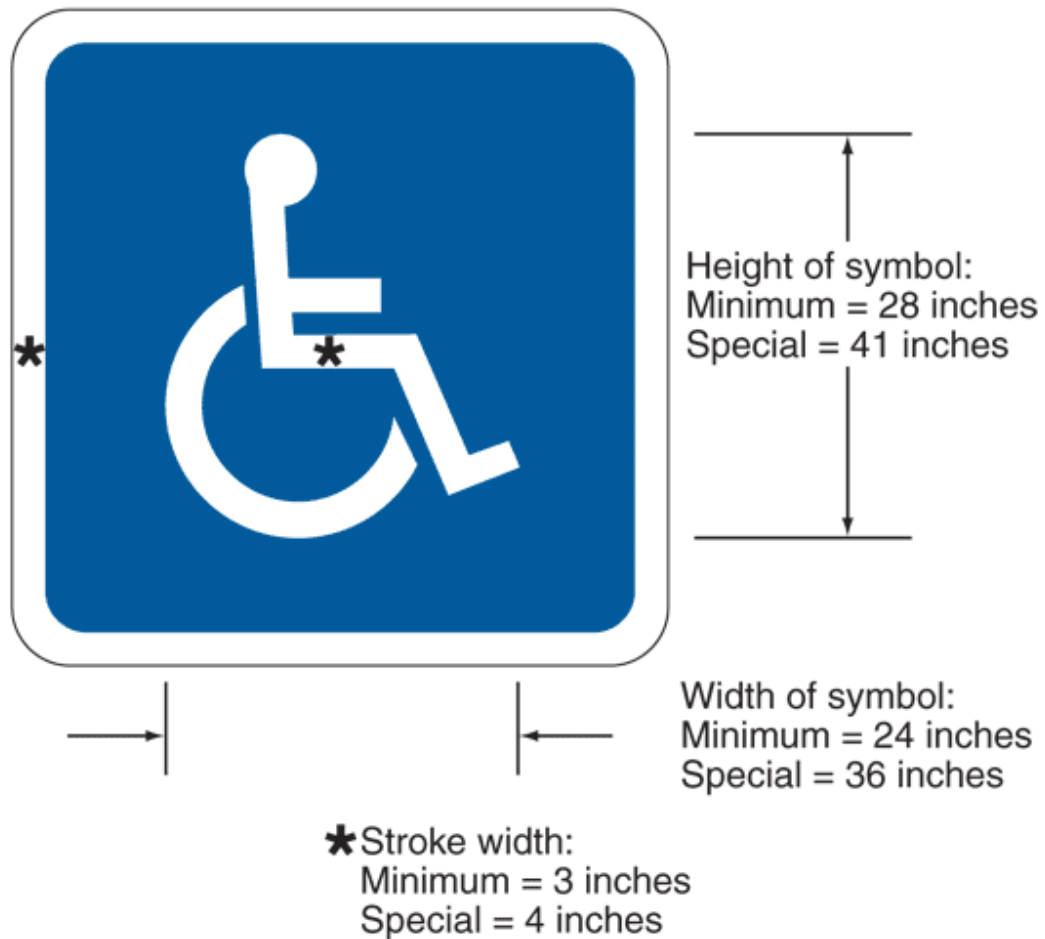


## EXHIBIT F



**EXHIBIT G**

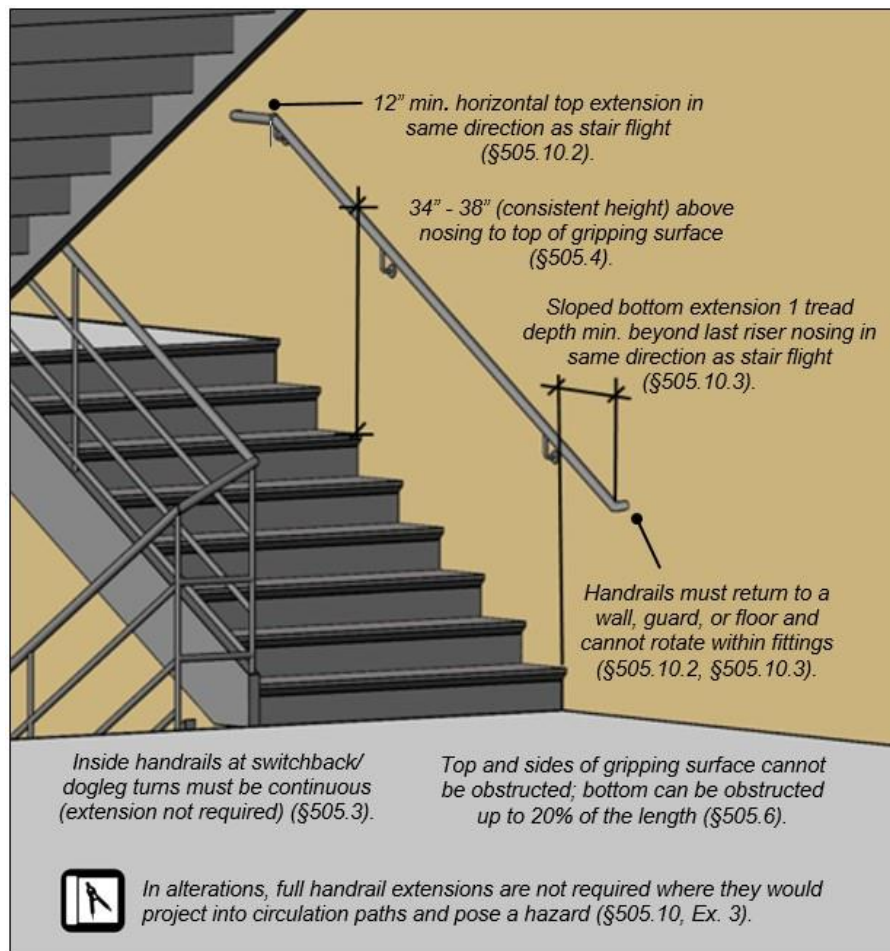
**Figure 3B-22. International Symbol of Accessibility Parking Space Marking**



Note: Blue background and white border are optional

## **EXHIBIT F**

Source: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-stairways>

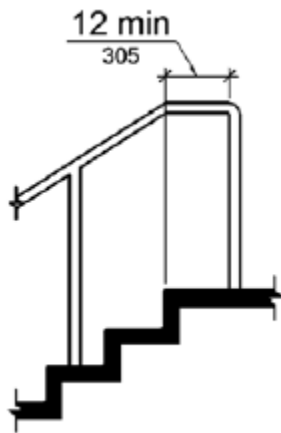




**EXHIBIT F (continued)**

Source: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements#505 Handrails>

505.10.2 Top Extension at Stairs. At the top of a stair flight, handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beginning directly above the first riser nosing. Extensions shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent stair flight.



**Figure 505.10.2 Top Handrail Extension at Stairs**